CD Delegation to USA

1709. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in the Indo-US trade, witnessed in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

(b) whether it is also a fact that a high level delegation for strengthening Indo-US economic co-operation led by the President, CII, had gone to US in the first week of June 2001;

(c) if so, what were the points discussed; and

(d) what has been the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIG VIJAY SINGH): (a) Indo-US Trade data (provisional) for the period April-May, 2001-02 is given below. There is decline in both export and import during this period in comparison to corresponding period of previous year. However, it is too early to project the trend as the current financial year has just begun.

(In Rs. Crores)

Period	Exports	Imports	Bilateral Trade
April-May 2000-01	668324	200734	869038
April-May 2001-02	5690.35	1939.70	7630.05

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. CII delegation had gone to the US from June 5—8,2001 to build a bridge between Indian industry and the new US administration to help strengthen Indo-US economic relations further. The delegation met several key officials of the US Administration, multilateral agencies and US industry and discussed latest initiatives taken by the Indian's Government to pursue economic reforms, emerging opportunities and areas of cooperation between the two countries. During meetings with US agencies, India's progress with its reforms programme was highly appreciated and they looked forward to this process gaining momentum. They highlighted their continued commitment towards India to increase bilateral trade and investment.

Decline in industrial growth

1710. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the core sector continued to register flat growth in the new fiscal with six infrastructure industries reporting a mere 1.1 per cent growth in April, this year.